

the Health Resources and Services Administration only. Individuals participating by telephone are also asked to keep their speakerphones on mute unless they are asking a question.

Dated: October 10, 2002.

Elizabeth M. Duke,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Star Cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Star Cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*). The star cactus is known to occur on one private land site in Starr County, Texas. Additional populations may be found in Tamaulipas, Mexico. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

DATES: The comment period for this Draft Recovery Plan closes November 18, 2002. Comments on the Draft Recovery Plan must be received by the closing date.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the Draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, c/o TAMUCC, 6300 Ocean Drive, Box 338, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412. Comments and materials concerning this Draft Recovery Plan may be sent to "Field Supervisor" at the address above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Loretta Pressly, Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office, at the above address; telephone (361) 994-9005, facsimile (361) 994-8262.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The star cactus (*Astrophytum asterias*) was listed as endangered on October 18, 1993, under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The threats facing the survival and recovery of this species include: habitat destruction through conversion of native habitat to agricultural land and increased urbanization; competition with exotic

invasive species; genetic vulnerability due to low population numbers; and collecting pressures for cactus trade. The Draft Recovery Plan includes information about the species and provides objectives and actions needed to downlist, then delist the species. Recovery activities designed to achieve these objectives include; protecting known populations; searching for additional populations; performing outreach activities to educate the general public on the need for protection; establishing additional populations through reintroduction in the known range of the plant.

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of species, establish criteria for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing recovery plans.

The Star Cactus Draft Recovery Plan is being submitted for technical and agency review. After consideration of comments received during the review period, the recovery plan will be submitted for final approval.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the recovery plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 10, 2002.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Regional Director, Region 2.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[CA-660-02-1610-DT]

Notice of Availability of the Proposed California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Proposed California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (Coachella Valley Plan) and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and initiation of the 30-day protest period.

SUMMARY: The Coachella Valley Plan amends the CDCA Plan for a 1.2 million-acre planning area encompassing the Coachella Valley, California. The BLM administers approximately 28 percent, or 330,516 acres, of the planning area. The Coachella Valley Plan is being developed in coordination with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments in support of their efforts to prepare a Coachella Valley Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

The Coachella Valley Plan includes goals, objectives, and management prescriptions in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) for comprehensive management of desert ecosystems, including actions supporting recovery of ten species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act: Peninsular Ranges Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelsoni*), Arroyo Toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), Desert Pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius macularius*), Desert Slender Salamander (*Batrachoseps aridus*), Desert Tortoise (*Xerobates [or Gopherus] agassizii*), Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Yuma Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), Coachella Valley Milk Vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus coachellae*), and Triple-ribbed Milk Vetch (*Astragalus tricarlinatus*). The

FEIS evaluates the Proposed Plan Amendments and three alternatives. The FEIS also includes public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and BLM's response to those comments.

DATES: The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final EIS containing the plan or amendment in the **Federal Register**. For an amendment not requiring the preparation of an EIS, the protest shall be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date. The BLM will issue a press release citing the actual date for closure of the protest period when determined, including publication on the BLM California's Internet site. Instructions for filing protests are contained in the Coachella Valley Plan cover sheet just inside the front cover, and are included below under "Supplementary Information."

ADDRESSES: Mailing address for filing a protest:

Regular mail—U.S. Department of the Interior, Director, Bureau of Land Management (210), Attn: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035.

Overnight mail—U.S. Department of the Interior, Director, Bureau of Land Management (210), Attn: Brenda Williams, Telephone (202) 452-5045, 1620 "L" Street NW, Rm. 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Foote at (760) 251-4836 or jfoote@ca.blm.gov. Copies of the Coachella Valley Plan are being mailed to those who received the DEIS or provided comments on the DEIS. The document is available for review via the Internet at <http://www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings> and is also available in hard copy at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

BLM, 690 West Garnet Ave., P.O. Box 581260, North Palm Springs, CA 92258; (760) 251-4800.

BLM, 6221 Box Springs Blvd., Riverside, CA 92507; (909) 697-5200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Following are the instructions from *Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2* for filing protests:

(a) Any person who participates in the planning process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues that were

submitted for the record during the planning process.

(1) The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final EIS containing the plan or amendment in the **Federal Register**. For an amendment not requiring the preparation of an EIS, the protest shall be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date.

(2) The protest shall contain:

(i) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;

(ii) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;

(iii) A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested;

(iv) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and

(v) A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

(3) The Director shall promptly render a decision on the protest. The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision shall be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(b) The decision of the Director shall be the final decision for the Department of the Interior.

Dated: September 13, 2002.

James G. Kenna,
Field Manager.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-448]

Textiles and Apparel: Assessment of the Competitiveness of Certain Foreign Suppliers to the U.S. Market

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation, scheduling of public hearing, and request for public comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 10, 2002.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on September 16, 2002, the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-448, Textiles and

Apparel: Assessment of the Competitiveness of Certain Foreign Suppliers to the U.S. Market, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)) for the purpose of assessing the textile and apparel industries of certain foreign suppliers with respect to their competitiveness and other factors pertinent to their adjustment to the final completion of the phaseout of quotas required by the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) on January 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, contact Robert W. Wallace (202-205-3458; wallace@usitc.gov) or Kimberlie Freund (202-708-5402; kfreund@usitc.gov) of the Office of Industries. For information on legal aspects, contact William Gearhart of the Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091; wgearhart@usitc.gov). Hearing impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information about the Commission can be found on its Internet server at <http://www.usitc.gov>. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS-ON-LINE) at <http://dockets.usitc.gov/eol/public/>.

Background: As requested by the USTR, the Commission will assess the textile and apparel industries of certain countries that are currently suppliers to the U.S. market with respect to their competitiveness and other factors pertinent to their adjustment to ATC completion. These countries include: (a) significant ATC suppliers to the U.S. market, (b) Mexico, and (c) other supplying countries with preferential access to the U.S. market. In the letter, the USTR requested that, to the extent practicable, the Commission's analysis should discuss factors such as textile and apparel consumption, production, employment, and prices in major textile and apparel exporting countries, as well as their textile and apparel trade, particularly with industrial country markets. The USTR requested that the Commission provide the information in a confidential report by June 30, 2003. In consultation with USTR staff, countries identified as significant ATC suppliers to the U.S. market for purposes of this investigation are Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Macao, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey.